

August 22, 2014

Weekly Views

The Indiana Department of Education has named Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility's Providence Jr/Sr High School as one of the Indiana schools to receive the Indiana Gold Star School Counseling Award in 2014. Gold Star schools undergo a rigorous process to raise student achievement by creating local community advisory groups that review student data, set specific student goals, and commit to maximizing the time and skills of the school counselor. The official award presentation will be at the Indiana School Counselor Association (ISCA) fall conference in Indianapolis on November 7, 2014.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility (MJCF) is a finalist for the 2014 Barbara Allen Hagen Award. This award, presented by the Performance based Standards (PbS) Learning Institute, recognizes some of the best juvenile facilities in the nation. The winner will be selected October 2, 2014 and honored at an awards ceremony held in Chicago, Illinois.

Several students and a staff member from Camp Summit Boot Camp performed community service at the Washington Park beach in Michigan City. The group assisted in setting up and taking down tents and fences and provided other labor for the Lakefront Art Festival sponsored by The Lubenik Center. Opportunities like this allow the students to give something back to the community and increase their overall sense of self-worth.

Pendleton Correctional Facility's (PCF) American Legion Post 608 and PLUS Program donated \$500 to Adalyn, a local 6-year-old girl who has been diagnosed with mitochondrial disease, to help her family cover the cost of ongoing tests, therapies, equipment and medical supplies.

Reception Diagnostic Center and Plainfield Correctional Facility staff teamed up to support both the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Indianapolis community by purchasing an additional 40 Officer Renn Memorial T-shirts. Combined with their previous purchase, staff have bought 90 of the memorial shirts – totaling \$1,350 donated to the Indianapolis Police Foundation!

Miami Correctional Facility held its 8th Annual Miami Scramble Golf Tournament, hosting the largest number of teams since it began with 29 foursomes. This year the tournament was held at Green Acres Golf Course outside of Kokomo. Lots of door prizes, food and goodies were given out to all of the teams. Commissioner Bruce Lemmon's team consisting of: Lemmon, Matthew Rains, Dave Burch and Troy Keith was the winning team this year and will have their names engraved on the permanent plaque.

Madison Correctional Facility has donated over 2,500 pounds of produce to the River Valley Clearinghouse and the Salvation Army of Jefferson County, including green onions, yellow squash, zucchini, cucumbers, potatoes, green beans, and various other vegetables. The offenders enjoy taking care of the garden and knowing that they are giving back to the community.

The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) held a five week Summer Staff Step competition (SSS). 15 IWP custody and non-custody staff competed in the contest. First place was awarded to Sergeant Sharon Parks who earned over 20,000 steps per day. She received a special medal, gift card, and a wellness snack. Her total was more than double the second place finisher, Officer Joe D. Williams who happened to be her teammate.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) held a food fundraiser through Papa John's Pizza in Pendleton, Indiana. Inmates were able to order some pizza and help two worthy organizations at the same time. \$2800 was raised to help fund the Animal Protection League in Anderson and the Indiana Canine Assistance Network.

A Freedom Rally was held in the chapel at the Indiana State Prison (ISP). The program consisted of gospel music, testimonials and preaching. The offenders were served a picnic lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, chips, Whoopie pies, and lemonade, all prepared and served by the volunteers from Gospel Echoes. The program was well received and appreciated by the 318 offenders who were in attendance.

Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) held an appreciation dinner to honor the many volunteers who provide more than 40 different programs and services to residents. More than 55 volunteers, along with IREF staff, enjoyed entertainment provided by the facility's Toastmasters and Gospel choir and dinner prepared by culinary arts students. Former resident and current IREF volunteer and mentor Minister William Alexander served as the guest speaker.

Westville Correctional Facility Assistant Superintendent Mike Scott will be retiring this month after 39 years of service to the IDOC. Mike began his career as a correctional officer at ISP in 1975. He has served in many positions including counselor, casework manager, trainer and administrative assistant. Scott also became the CTI and DOC Training Director from 1984-1990 and helped open WCU in 1990. He served as Superintendent at Medaryville, Lakeside and Camp Summit. He has been a board member of the Indiana Criminal Justice Association for 26 years in every position, including president. His leadership and experience will be sorely missed.

Greene County native Robert Storm has joined the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Internal Affairs Department! Storm, a 17 year veteran of the maximum-security facility, has been part of the WVCF Emergency Squad, trained staff in CPR/First Aid and Personal Protection/Security Skills, and was a drug screening officer and trip officer. Storm's experience as a reserve Officer with the Jasonville City Police Department for seven years as a patrolman and undercover officer will also serve him well in his new assignment.